

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 TOKYO 13861 011037Z
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C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 13861

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORG, UNSC, SF, WA, JA
SUBJECT: US-JAPAN PRE-UNGA CONSULTATIONS: JAPANESE
CONTRIBUTION TO UNTAG

REF: STATE 189874

1. DURING US-JAPAN PRE-UNGA CONSULTATIONS JULY 31,
DIRGEN OF MOFA'S UN BUREAU OKAWA CONFIRMED THAT JAPAN
HOPED TO PARTICIPATE IN CIVILIAN PORTION OF UNTAG
OPERATION. HE SAID MOFA PLANNED TO INCORPORATE FUNDS FOR
CONTRIBUTION TO UNTAG IN SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET LIKELY TO BE
SUBMITTED TO SEPTEMBER EXTRAORDINARY DIET SESSION. AND
ASKED FOR DETAILED INFORMATION ON THE OPERATION.

2. ASSISTANT SECRETARY MAYNES SAID THAT EXACT DETAILS OF
THE OPERATION WOULD NOT BEGIN TO EMERGE UNTIL UN SPECIAL
REPRESENTATIVE AND SURVEY TEAM RETURNED FROM NAMIBIA IN MID
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PAGE 02 TOKYO 13861 011037Z

AUGUST. DEPENDING ON RECOMMENDATIONS OF SPECIAL REPRESEN-
TATIVE, IT APPEARED LIKELY THAT THE CIVILIAN COMPONENT OF
UNTAG WOULD CONSIST OF AT LEAST 1,000 TO 1,500 PERSONNEL.
MAYNES NOTED THAT IN ADDITION TO PERSONNEL, SUBSTANTIAL
LOGISTICAL SUPPORT WOULD BE NECESSARY, ESPECIALLY
COMMUNICATIONS AND TRANSPORTATION EQUIPMENT, AND SUGGESTED
JAPANESE CONTRIBUTION IN THIS AREA WOULD BE ESPECIALLY

VALUABLE. MAYNES SAID THAT CUSTOMARY USG PRACTICE WAS TO PROVIDE NEEDED AIRLIFT CAPABILITY TO UN PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS ON A NON-REIMBURSABLE BASIS AND WAS PREPARED TO DO THIS FOR UNTAG. HE ADDED THAT IN CASE OF UNIFIL THE BRITISH SIMILARLY HAD ABSORBED COST OF TRANSPORTING FIJIAN TROOPS, THE FRENCH ABSORBED COST OF TRANSPORTING THEIR CONTINGENT AND THE WEST GERMANS OFFERED TO PAY FOR TRANSPORTING NORWEGIAN TROOPS. MAYNES SAID IT WOULD BE QUITE HELPFUL IF JAPAN WOULD CONSIDER BEARING AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE THE COST OF ITS PROJECTED CONTRIBUTION TO UNTAG.

3. MOFA UN POLITICAL AFFAIRS DIVISION DIRECTOR WATANABE DESCRIBED MOFA EFFORTS IN CANVASSING VARIOUS MINISTRIES AND PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS TO COME UP WITH QUALIFIED PERSONNEL FOR UNTAG. MOFA CURRENTLY WAS CONSIDERING OFFERING PERSONNEL FOR THESE SEPARATE FUNCTIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES: ELECTION SUPERVISOR, POLICE ACTIVITY, AND LOGISTICAL SUPPORT. IN ORDER TO FIND RIGHT PEOPLE FOR THESE TASKS, AND TO COMPLETE DETAILED ADMINISTRATIVE PREPARATIONS REQUIRED IN JAPANESE SYSTEM, SPECIFIC JOB DESCRIPTIONS WOULD HAVE TO BE AVAILABLE SOON, WHICH PUT PREMIUM ON HAVING AS MUCH DETAILED INFORMATION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. WE URGED THEM TO WORK WITH THE SECRETARIAT AS CLOSELY AS POSSIBLE.

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PAGE 03 TOKYO 13861 011037Z

4. MAYNES SAID THAT THE TIME SCHEDULE FOR LAUNCHING UNTAG HAD SLIPPED SLIGHTLY AND THE ELECTIONS NOW WERE LIKELY TO BE HELD IN MARCH OR APRIL 1979. SLIPPAGE STEMMED FROM DELAY IN THE UN SURVEY VISIT, AND WIDE VARIETY OF DIFFICULT LOGISTICAL PROBLEMS WHICH UNTAG WOULD CONFRONT. WATANABE OBSERVED THAT, FROM JAPANESE VIEW-POINT, THE MORE TIME AVAILABLE THE BETTER, SINCE IT WOULD PROVIDE OPPORTUNITY TO CONVINCE MORE DIET MEMBERS AND OTHER MINISTRIES AS WELL TO RECRUIT APPROPRIATE ENGLISH-SPEAKING PERSONNEL. MAYNES ALSO SUGGESTED JAPANESE KEEP IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH USUN AND CONTACT GROUPS IN NEW YORK, WHO COULD PROVIDE DETAILED PERSONNEL REQUIREMENTS WHEN AVAILABLE.

5. WATANABE NOTED DIFFICULTY OF MAINTAINING SEPARATION BETWEEN CIVILIAN AND MILITARY PORTIONS OF UNTAG, PARTICULARLY IN AREAS OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS, AND OBSERVED THAT THIS COULD POSE DOMESTIC POLITICAL PROBLEMS FOR GOJ. MAYNES OBSERVED THAT QUESTION OF TERMINOLOGY WAS SENSITIVE ONE NOT ONLY FOR JAPANESE BUT FOR OTHER PARTIES. MANSFIELD

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